

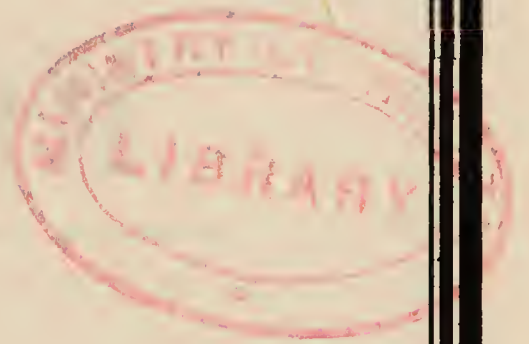


Annual Reports

Of the Medical Officer
of Health and Sanitary
Inspector of the Stafford
Rural District for the
Year 1937.

STAFFORD :

Printed by R. W. Hord and Son, 22, Mill Street



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REPORT

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford
Rural District Council.*

EASTGATE,

STAFFORD,

MAY, 1938.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the health of the Stafford Rural District for the year 1937.

The Ministry of Health issues instructions regarding the compiling of Annual Reports, and the following report is based on their requirements, and arranged according to their schedule as far as possible. From April 1st, 1934, the Gnosall Rural District became incorporated in the Stafford Rural District, the area and population thus becoming considerably increased. The population is estimated by the Registrar General to be 13,290.

The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are :

HERBERT MARSON, M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P. Lond.,
F.R.C.S.Eng., Medical Officer of Health (whole time).

JAMES W. COOK, M.R.S.I., Certified Meat Inspector,
Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

RICHARD LANGMAID, additional Sanitary Inspector
(whole time).

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA	.....	80,960 Acres
POPULATION (as estimated by the Registrar General)		13,290
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1937).....		4,120
RATEABLE VALUE	.....	£51,627
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	.....	£185

The chief occupation of this rural area is Agriculture. A minority of the population are residents whose work takes them into the County Town, where the chief industries are Engineering and Shoe Manufacturing.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	231	133	98	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 18
	Illegitimate	8	3	5	
STILLBIRTHS	Legitimate	7	4	3	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 18.6
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	
DEATHS	.....	167	91	76	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12.5

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

Puerperal sepsis	.....	Nil
Other puerperal causes	.....	Nil
Total	.....	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—Total 16
(Legitimate 15, Illegitimate 1)

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	66.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		64.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		125
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	9

There were no outstanding causes of sickness or mortality which were especially noteworthy in the area during the year.

A table is appended, shewing the comparative death rates in the district for the past five years :—

1932 Death Rate	11.6	} Per 1,000 of the estimated population.
1933 Death Rate	9.2	
1934 Death Rate	11.4	
1935 Death Rate	12.6	
1936 Death Rate	13.6	

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Clinics and Treatment Centres, Hospitals.

No important developments have occurred, or changes been made during the past year in the services provided in the district under the above heads.

As stated in last year's report, the provision of an Isolation Hospital for the district has been under consideration. It was not then decided whether certain rural districts should be permitted to erect a hospital common to them all, or whether the erection or management should be undertaken solely by the County Council.

At the present time the situation is as under :—

The Ministry of Health has directed that there shall be a Common Isolation Hospital for a number of districts, in the South Staffordshire area, including the Stafford Rural, and the Stafford Borough Districts, but the two above districts are opposing this, with a view to retaining their present hospital accommodation, with certain additions thereto, and at the moment the matter is in abeyance.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

There were more cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, and less cases of Diphtheria.

Two cases of Anthrax occurred in human beings, one case recovering, and the other proving fatal.

No cases of Rabies in human beings have occurred during the year.

Every case of infectious disease occurring in schools in the district is notified to the Medical Officer of Health. All except very exceptional cases of infectious disease are removed to the Isolation Hospital. In cases not removed, every care is taken to ensure that suitable isolation in the patients' own home is provided. In no case in this rural area is Scarlet Fever allowed to be isolated at a home where milk is produced.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) 1937.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Deaths
Small Pox	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	47	Nil
Diphtheria	4	1
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	16	4
Erysipelas	1	Nil

A table showing the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the past five years is appended :—

SCARLET FEVER.

	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of Population	Deaths
1933	13	1.3	Nil
1934	18	1.48	Nil
1935	32	2.4	Nil
1936	32	2.4	Nil
1937	47	3.5	Nil

DIPHTHERIA.

1933	3	.303	Nil
1934	5	.41	Nil
1935	7	.53	1
1936	9	.68	1
1937	4	.03	1

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases notified in 1937.				Deaths. 1937			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.	M.	F.
0							1	
1			1					
5			2					
15		1		2		2		
25	1			1			1	
35	1				1	1		
45	2				1			1
55								
65 and upwards			1				1	
Totals ...	4	1	4	3	2	3	3	1

As stated in last year's report, the notification of Tuberculosis in the district is fairly satisfactory. Knowledge of new cases comes partly from notifications, and partly from other sources. Some cases are not discovered until the deaths are notified.

SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

OVERCROWDING : A Serious Shortage of Houses for Agricultural Workers.

The erection of houses for the relief of overcrowding at present numbers 12, whereas there are 27 required, leaving a shortage of 15 houses to be provided.

These are urgently needed to abate serious overcrowding and in some cases, an undesirable mixing of the sexes.

The overcrowding still to be abated is revealed by the following figures of houses needed :—Weston, 3 ; Gnosall, 2 ; Gayton, 2 ; Hixon, 2 ; Derrington, 2 ; Great Haywood, 1 ; Salt, 1.

In addition, there is a very real shortage of houses for agricultural labourers in the following villages :—Hixon, Stowe, Weston, Bishops Offley, Gnosall, Milford, Adbaston, Church Eaton, Brocton and Marston.

A considerable number of houses were condemned some years past as unfit for human habitation, but no action whatever has been taken to remedy this undesirable state of affairs.

I will repeat what I said last year in my Annual Report, for as yet, no action has been taken in the matter :—

“ For years I have impressed upon the Council the necessity of providing cottages for agricultural workers at a rent which is within their power to afford. I hear and see the necessity of providing such cottages more or less throughout the whole district, and this is supported not only by the agricultural workers themselves, but by Members of the Council.

“ In practice what happens is this. When the young agricultural worker arrives at a marriageable age, he looks around for a house to enable him to get married. To procure such is a practical impossibility, as they are non-existent.

“ He turns to the town, as the only solution to his difficulty, where he obtains employment at one of the several large works, with higher wages, and considerably shorter hours, including the freedom from work on Sundays. The corollary to this is obvious.

“ The result is borne out by the very serious depletion of labour on the land, which exists to such an extent that farmers are finding it impossible to obtain labour to carry on their absolutely necessary work, and there is no question that the depletion of labour on the land is due primarily to the scarcity of houses.”

If one requires a confirmation of the above, it is found in the following :—

The House of Commons has given a third reading to the Housing Bill, which is intended to stir local authorities to build more houses for farm workers at rents they can

afford to pay. All the houses will not be in villages. The farmer who wants to build a cottage at his farm for, say, his cowman, can, if the local authorities agree, get a subsidy of £10 a year for 40 years.

Speaking at Worthing on May 2nd, Sir Kingsley Wood, then Minister of Health, foreshadowed a new drive for better housing conditions for agricultural workers. If they wanted agricultural workers to remain on the countryside, Sir Kingsley said, they must provide them with houses in which they could bring up their families in decency.

By the subsidies in the Government's new measure, it should be possible to build houses to let at rents in the neighbourhood of three to four shillings a week, exclusive of rates.

Speaking on the wireless on May 2nd, Sir Kingsley Wood advocated the purchase of land, suitable for the erection of workmen's dwellings to avoid unnecessary delay.

Air Raid Precautions.

From the inception of the necessity of making provision for possible air raids, the Council has lost no time in preparing the district for such an emergency.

A Senior Air Raid Warden was at once appointed, and he in turn organised Wardens in the numerous parishes, with their auxiliary helpers.

Suitable buildings are being considered for the storage of the necessary accessories.

The Stafford Rural District has for a considerable period had arrangements with the Council of Stafford Borough for the extinction of fires in their rather wide area. These arrangements have been overhauled with the Council in conjunction with the Captain of the Fire Brigade, with a view to the Brigade rendering efficient aid should their services be required in a serious outbreak arising from a hostile attack by air. Should it be necessary to cope with a minor outbreak, provision is being made for such an eventuality, and anticipated for any such circumstance that may arise, and the whole of these arrangements are being carried out under the directions, and in conference with, the Military Advisor, sent down by the Ministry, who spares no trouble to ensure that the arrangements for co-operation shall be efficient.

HERBERT MARSON,

M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.S.S. Eng.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstance of the Area.

(1) WATER.—The Council has engaged a Water Engineer for the Eastern and Western Areas.

Boring operations are being carried out at The Hollies, Gnosall, and considerable progress has been made to 320 feet depth.

Some 31 samples of the existing wells were bacteriologically and chemically tested and some 70 per cent were certified as being more than two baccillus coli per 100 nil.

The parishes supplied by the Stafford Corporation Water Committee are Berkswich, Brocton, Colwich, Tixall, parts of Castle Church and Hopton.

The Ingestre Estate supply their own farms and cottages at Ingestre, Shirleywich and Hopton from their own pumping plant and reservoir.

The Newport Urban District Council supply water to 11 houses at Islington.

For the Gnosall village there is a supply to about 280 houses gravitated from a spring at Audmore. No samples were taken.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—The Council has engaged an Engineer for the Walton Sewerage who is submitting a scheme to the Ministry of Health for approval.

The Council are also considering schemes for the extension of the sewers at Forton and Gnosall.

Also their Consulting Engineer has been requested to report on the drainage of Norbury village.

The drainage generally is to tanks with soakaways, and there are few complaints.

No action has been taken to check the pollution of rivers or streams in this area.

I.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—During the year 1937 some six conversions from privies to pan closets were made

Approximately the figures are 2,480 water closets and 1,102 pan closets, and 572 privies, a large number being under notice for conversion to pans.

II.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The Council has undertaken the removal of house refuse by contract from the following parishes:— Berkswich, Brocton, Castlechurch, Creswell, Colwich, Gnosall, and some 22 houses in the parishes of Seighford and Hopton.

Refuse is collected on Milford Chase, also regular attention is paid to levelling ashtips and covering refuse at Colwich, Gnosall, Church Eaton, Milford, Stowe, Weston and Haughton.

Cesspool cleansing is carried out by owners or occupiers.

III.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector's Tabular Statement.

Houses Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1174
Houses Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
Houses Unfit	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Demolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Closed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Re-conditioned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
Under Notice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	300
New Houses Built	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Bakehouses Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Shops Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56
Butchers' Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Slaughterhouses Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
Knackers' Yard	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Samples of Water taken	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Farms Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1076
Cowsheds Re-conditioned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
New Cowsheds Built	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
New Cooling places with boiler	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Drainage Defects (visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	105

IV.—SHOPS ACT, 1934.—An inspection of all Shops, Hotels, etc., is being made. Most of the shops are small, without assistants, and are generally clean, well ventilated, with sufficient sanitary convenience.

V.—SMOKE ABATEMENT.—The three factory chimneys, at Colwich, Knighton and Weston, gave no trouble during 1937.

VI.—SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—There are none in the district.

VII.—ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—There was one private house, of an aged person, thoroughly disinfected by sulphur and burning of bedding. The house has now been closed

VIII —SCHOOLS —The 17 schools have water supply as follows :—

Adbaston	.....Water is conveyed to School
Berkswich	.....Tap Water
Bradley	.....Well Water
Colwich	.....Tap Water
Church Eaton	.....Well Water
Forton	.....The Aqualate Estate Company Private Pumping Plant
Great Haywood (2)	.....Tap Water.
Gnosall (2 Schools)	.....Well and Tap Water.
High Offley	.....Well Water.
Hixon	.....Well Water.
Haughton	.....Well Water.
Hyde Lea	.....Tap Water.
Marston	.....Tap Water, County Council's Reservoir
Stowe	.....Well Water.
Weston	.....Well Water.

The sanitary condition of the schools is generally satisfactory, and the health of the scholars good. The number of the infectious diseases below the average.

A number of the infectious diseases which occur in the district are the result of young people resident in towns adjacent to the Rural District, returning to their native village, at the outset of the development of an infectious disease, thereby aggravating the number not actually arising in the Rural District.

HOUSING.

1.—(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for
defects 1062

Under Public Health or Housing Acts.	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	600
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under Sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulation 1925	1062
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	600
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	80
2.—Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notice.	
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers :—	
Houses repaired	27
Houses re-conditioned	27
3.—Action under Statutory powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	80
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
Houses repaired	27
Houses re-conditioned	27
	—
	54
(a) By Owners	54
(b) By Local Authority	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	Nil
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of Separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. The tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Housing Act, 1936, Overcrowding.	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	16
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	16
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein Adults	81
	Children 31
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	41
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Adults 224
	Children 90

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it desirable to report (See special report of Medical Officer of Health)
- (f) Houses inspected re Overcrowding 112

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content, and for tubercle bacilli and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936.

The total number of dairy farms in the district is 682, with 1,632 cowsheds, and an average number of milch cows 16,500.

During the year some 824 inspections were made, and 350 notices served.

Some 8 new sheds were erected and 40 re-conditioned re window lighting, and floors. Also 10 new cooling places were put up.

The sampling of the milk for bacterial content, and for tubercle bacilli is undertaken by the Stafford County Council.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD. There are seven licensed and one registered slaughter houses in the district.

One hundred and nine inspections of slaughter houses were made during the year and the meat was generally of good quality.

The six butchers' shops are regularly inspected, also the vans travelling with meat and provisions, and the premises where food is prepared.

ANTE AND POST MORTEM INSPECTION.

Ante-Inspection Beasts	38
Post Mortem „ „	162
Ante-Inspection Sheep	70
Post Mortem „ „	170
Ante-Inspection Pigs	20
Post Mortem „ „	53

Condemnations :—Six carcase Beef and one Sheep.

There is no Meat Marketing Scheme in force in the district under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

The 65 small shops are regularly inspected and no special action taken under the Shops Act, 1934. The County Council undertaking same.

(c) ADULTERATION.—Action is undertaken by the Staffordshire County Council.

(d) The chemical and bacteriological examination of food is also undertaken by the County Council.

JAMES W COOK, M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

